

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## MissionsBLITZ rolls into Perry County

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Perry Association in southeast Mississippi hosted a major missions event June 22-27. Known as the Perry County MissionsBLITZ, the endeavor involved an estimated 140 missions volunteers working in various areas of service.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and under the direction of WMU consultant Tammy Anderson, the project impacted hundreds of citizens of Perry County, with 27 professions of faith recorded.

Areas of service included Backyard Bible Clubs in four locations; Vacation Bible Schools in two locations; and acts of kindness, a ministry which included changing the oil in 76 vehicles, plus pumping gas and washing windshields for surprised customers at local gas stations.

Buddy Keyes, pastor of First Church, Richton, and chairman for the event, said, "This has been outstanding. It was more than I anticipated. With our oil changes, we helped many elderly folks who couldn't do it on their own. Our own church has done an outstanding job in support — we had over seventy of our own people helping at the block party in Richton."

The block party to which Keyes referred was one of two block parties (called SummerFEST) which were important components of the overall event. In addition to the block party in Richton, a second was held in nearby Beaumont. An estimated 500 people participated in Richton; 400 people participated in Beaumont.

Another component of MissionBLITZ was construction work done around the county. According to John Garner of Memorial Church in New Augusta, four light construction projects were completed.

Frances Mathis of First Church, Richton, was Vacation Bible School director for the overall project. "I helped organize VBS teams to go into churches that couldn't do it on their own. We only had to get help into two churches: Bethel and Calvary. We put teams in both those churches. We ran 25-27 kids in those churches, and had two professions of faith."

"The people were so glad to see Vacation Bible School going on in their church," she said. "We do live in the Bible Belt, and we think everyone knows who Jesus is and know how to get saved. That's a lie from the devil — there are plenty of people around us who don't know Jesus, who aren't going to come to our churches until we show them with our hearts that there's something different in us. We have to get out in the communities," she stressed.



MOWING FOR MISSIONS — Kaylee Ledford of First Church, Boyle, pushes a lawn mower as part of a clean-up effort at local homes during the Perry County MissionsBLITZ on June 22-27. (Photo by Tammy Anderson)

Another area of service for the MissionsBLITZ participants was prayer-walking. Prayerwalkers visited over 220 homes in the county, asking residents for prayer needs. Prayerwalkers prayed with residents as opportunities presented themselves.

Programs of the Mississippi WMU are supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering.

## Robinson, Glaze resign Children's Village posts

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The top two administrators at the Baptist Children's Village (BCV) in Jackson have resigned at the request of the Mississippi Baptist agency's board of trustees.

The resignations of Ronnie Robinson, BCV executive director for the past 14 years, and Henry Glaze, executive assistant for programs and a 29-year BCV staffer, were accepted by trustees at their quarterly board meeting on June 24.

"Trustees present at the quarterly meeting were united in their decision that a change in leadership for the Baptist Children's Village was in the best interest of the agency at this time," according to a statement released by the board on June 26. The statement did not elaborate further on the resignations.

"The board of trustees has complete confidence in the

employees of the Baptist Children's Village to carry out the tasks of the ministry. The Baptist Children's Village will continue to provide for the needs of hurting children and families as it has consistently done for the past 106 years," the statement stressed.

In a July 7 interview at the offices of The Baptist Record in Jackson, Robinson said, "It has been a high honor to serve God and Mississippi Baptists for the past 14 years as executive director of the Baptist Children's Village. I have been blessed beyond measure by the love, prayers, and support given to me and to the Village by so many of you."

"The mission of the Baptist



Robinson



Glaze

staff who consistently reflect the love of Christ, often under the most difficult of circumstances. I urge Mississippi Baptists to continue to support them.

"This is not the end of my earthly ministry. I remain God's obedient servant, and await his direction for my life. He is always faithful, and He will provide. My prayer is that God will bless each one of you as richly as He has blessed me," Robinson said.

Glaze said on July 7 that he too is seeking the Lord's direction for the future. "I

Children's Village will continue. Anyone who knows me knows that I will be praying daily for the children of the Village and for the dedicated

will continue to serve in some capacity for the good of the children and families of Mississippi. That's what I've given my career for," he said.

Prior to his service at BCV, Robinson was a bivocational minister serving as pastor of Mount Moriah Church in Lincoln County and as an investigator for the 14th Judicial District of Mississippi for 13 years. Before that, he was a child abuse investigator for eight years for the Hinds County Juvenile Court in Jackson.

He is a 1968 graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, and he attended New Orleans Seminary. He is also a graduate of the Delinquency Control Institute at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Robinson and his wife Gayera have three adult sons. The Robinsons can be reached at P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060. Telephone: (601) 922-1113.

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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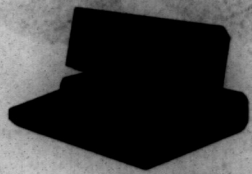
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# Whatever happened to the Constitution?

It hardly ever fails. During the two weeks of the year when *The Baptist Record* does not publish — July 4 and December 25 — a landslide of news piles up at the newspaper's door. Where to start on all the important events that have transpired since the last issue in June?

That decision is actually pretty easy this time. One of the most important U.S. Supreme Court decisions in the country's history (and that's no exaggeration) was handed down on June 26. It is also one of the most confused decisions in the history of the court.

By a 6-3 vote the nation's highest justices effectively legalized sodomy nationwide, contradicting one of its own prior rulings and offering some of the most convoluted reasoning ever for ignoring strict constitutional interpretation and elevating ever-shifting cultural standards as the rationale for their rulings.

The bad case that brought about this bad ruling began in Texas, where a pair of homosexual men were caught *en flagrante* and fined about \$200 each for their violation of that state's anti-sodomy law. Some observers believe the whole incident was a set-up by homosexual activists to get just such a case into the court system and eventually to the U.S. Supreme Court. If so, it worked.

They got the ruling they wanted. The 50 state legislatures are now prohibited from enacting laws demanded by their electorate, such as anti-sodomy laws, in favor of what amounts to judicial lawmaking that thwarts the will of the people as expressed by their elected representatives.

Don't be fooled by the homosexual activists who contend that this U.S. Supreme Court won't open the door to even bolder demands by the activists. Associate Justice Antonin Scalia in a strongly-worded dissent wrote that if court asserts the promotion of

"majoritarian sexual morality" is not even a legitimate state interest, then state laws prohibiting fornication, bigamy, adultery, adult incest, bestiality, and obscenity cannot survive this ruling.

The court did a complete about-face from its 1986 ruling in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, in which the justices ruled 5-4 that essentially there was no fundamental right to sodomy in the U.S. Constitution. "Its (the *Bowers* ruling) continuance as precedence demeans the lives of homosexual persons. It ought not to remain binding precedent," wrote Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy.

So much for continuity in constitutional interpretation.

What's next? Most certainly a major push for legalization of homosexual marriage is near, affording those unions the identical rights of married heterosexual partners. Any day now, the Massachusetts Supreme Court is expected to clear the way for homosexual marriage in that state. Last week Wal-Mart joined some of the largest corporations in America in extending full benefits to homosexual partners of their employees. Wal-Mart! The entertainment media also feeds a steady diet of pro-homosexual agitprop into our homes.

Christians are often the target of hate and ridicule over the issue of homosexual rights. After all, we're the last unprotected class in the country. We mustn't lose heart.

"KEEP IT BETWEEN THE  
DITCHES!"



The Bible clearly lists homosexuality as an abomination before God, along with many other sins among which He makes no distinction. Jesus has the power to save the homosexual, the drunkard, the adulterer, the gambler — even you and me.

We are farther down this slippery cultural slope than ever before. Let us redouble our efforts to bring a lost world to Christ (Matt. 28:19-20).

Nothing less than the fate of our beloved country hangs in the balance.

## GUEST OPINION:



*Hey SI, your  
bias is showing*

By Brad Locke  
Tupelo

simply accepted as OK. This was nothing more than a puff piece for gays to stick on their bulletin boards.

Lynch also missed a great opportunity to explore the role and history of homosexuals in golf (the LPGA's worst-kept secret is that it's very gay-friendly; just look at all the women strolling hand-in-hand at a big tournament), to talk to people from both sides, examine the effects of homosexuality on the game, particularly the women's side, and how it's been dealt with.

Lynch, who is not a regular contributor to SI, obviously wasn't recruited for his reporting skills, which you would expect to be at a higher level considering his pedigree. He has written for many big-time publications, including the *New York Daily News*, *New York Magazine*, *The Village Voice*, and the *Los Angeles*

*Times*. He just ignored the other side of the issue, as the typical mainstream journalist tends to do these days. Lynch also fails to mention, of course, that being gay is a decision and that Christ can save people from that and any other sin.

Enough about Lynch, because *Sports Illustrated* is ultimately responsible for letting the story reach its pages. While there is a *Sports Illustrated* for Kids, also known at times to be a vehicle for liberal ideology, you can't tell me a 10-year-old isn't going to pick up his or her dad's SI and flip through it. No telling how many innocent kids were exposed to such dangerous words.

This story brings to question whether Christians should boycott *Sports Illustrated*, which has repeatedly given the homosexual agenda a national forum that followers of Christ rarely find. Should I cancel my subscription? I think not. In fact, I

am sending this column to managing editor Terry McDonnell and Golf Plus editor James P. Herre, in hopes that they and their colleagues will re-examine the kind of slanted coverage they're giving the readers.

By the way, here's a couple of other examples of SI's corrupted worldview: A minor league baseball team, the Nashville Sounds, has started a promotion called Faith Nights aimed directly at Christians, offering Christian musical entertainment and a picnic before games, and discounted rates for church groups. Not a word about that in *Sports Illustrated*, which usually mentions such tidbits in its Scorecard department. Nor was there even a sidebar on David Robinson after San Antonio won the NBA Finals last week. Robinson is a devout Christian who both talks and walks the faith, but there was no mention of his relationship with Christ and how Robinson, who just finished his final season, has been used by God to bless the city of San Antonio.

Maybe if a homosexual had been involved...

Locke, copy desk editor and sports writer for the *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal* in Tupelo, is a weekly columnist for BP Sports at [www.bpsports.net](http://www.bpsports.net).



# MercyMe hit moving onto secular charts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — More than two years after its release on Christian radio, MercyMe's Dove Award-winning song *I Can Only Imagine* has become a crossover hit on mainstream radio stations across the country.

The song was at No. 19 on the Top 20 Mainstream Adult Contemporary chart and No. 39 on the Contemporary Hit Radio chart for the week of June 30 and has become one of the most requested songs in history for some stations.

Dallas' Wild 100 FM was the first mainstream station to play the song after a listener called in to the station's All Request Hour and asked that the song be played.

Matt Austin, program director at the Franklin, Tenn.-based WAY-FM Christian station, said he believes two reasons for the crossover success of *I Can Only Imagine* are that it's simply good music and that it conveys so much hope that it speaks to a much broader audience than just the Christian subgroup.

"There seems to be an opinion that Christian music has to change its message to get mainstream airplay, and this song is an example that it doesn't," Austin told Baptist Press. "I think if Christian artists will just release quality music, they will have an opportunity from time to time to cross over. It's a question of is it simply good music or not?"

Austin said that though *I Can Only Imagine* was released long ago on Christian radio, WAY-

FM still plays it as a current song, which is longer than any other song has held that status.

MercyMe's lead singer, Bart Millard, wrote the song as he

thought, "This song is so blatantly Christian, why bother?" but the response has been overwhelming," Millard said in the Nashville Tennessean June 3.



**CRACKING THE CHARTS** — Contemporary Christian music group MercyMe talks about winning song of the year for *I Can Only Imagine* backstage at the Dove Awards in 2002. More than two years after being released, the song has cracked the secular pop charts with its deeply personal description of meeting Jesus in Heaven. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

was coming to grips with his father's death. As an 18-year-old, Millard found solace in believing that if given the choice, his father would prefer to stay in heaven with God rather than return to his family.

The idea of the song stayed in his mind for years, and he found himself scribbling the phrase "I can only imagine" on scraps of paper, notebooks or anything he could find. In 1999, about eight years after his father's death, Millard finally wrote the song in a matter of minutes.

*I Can Only Imagine* was part of the band's album *Almost There*, released in 2001, and won the Dove Award for Song of the Year in 2002. "When people first started talking about working it to pop radio, I

The song has been added to more than 100 markets nationwide, and program directors in markets like Phoenix, Denver, Minneapolis, Monterey, Atlanta, and Orlando say it may be the biggest reaction song they've ever had, according to a June 25 release by The Media Collective, MercyMe's public relations representative.

Stations reported that once they started playing the song, they got overwhelming feedback in the form of e-mails, phone calls, and even people driving to the station to inquire about the song or thank them for playing it.

Pete DeGraaf of WXXL in Orlando said *I Can Only Imagine* won the votes for best new music all five nights it was played.

"I checked my records, and no song has done this in 12 years, except [American Idol winner] Kelly Clarkson in 2002," DeGraaf said in the release.

Rich Davis, program director at Nashville's WRVW, said MercyMe's record company, INO Records, first brought him the song about two months ago.

"It was a time the country was still at war, and regardless

of the fact that it was such a Christian message, I thought this was a song that especially at this point in time would be a good song to play on the station," Davis said.

He had not decided whether he would play the song a lot; he just wanted to put it on the air and see whether the response was positive or negative. The reaction was so overwhelmingly positive that Davis decided to give it more air time.

"I've always been the kind of program director that has said it doesn't matter what genre the record comes from, if it's something the audience wants to hear then I'm going to give it to them," he told Baptist Press.

So many people connect with *I Can Only Imagine* because "no matter who we are, we all

## Record

MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

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### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

Leaders at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., express interest in the Baptist Sunday School Board-sponsored "True Love Waits" campaign. "None of us anticipated the interest shown by other denominations," said Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

#### 20 years ago

The United Church of Christ accepts a report that states the homosexuality of a candidate for ordination should not be a ground for refusing to admit that person into the church's ministry.

#### 50 years ago

A letter from Mrs. R. G. Burt, McComb, to The Baptist Record, states, "Today my soul is vexed from day to day when I see women and girls going about the streets and public places exposing their half-nude bodies before the eyes of men and boys... ladies and girls, you are liable to excite the baser desires of men."



## NAVIGATORS IN THE CHURCH

I had been to Phoenix, Arizona, for the Southern Baptist Convention and was at the Phoenix Airport waiting to catch my plane to return home. As I processed through all the security, ticketing, and general hassle at the airport, I kept running into some people that I thought were part of a travel group of some sort. They were all dressed alike, with the same kind of shirts on, and they all



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

outright asked, "Can we help you in any way?"

In addition to these friendly folks' dress and demeanor, they all seemed to be in the "senior" stage of life. There were men and women and they were everywhere throughout the airport. What I surmised was that they were with a Senior Adult tour group and that they had come to the airport way too early and now were just waiting on their airplane to arrive and were just scattered all over the airport looking, talking, and visiting.

I'm telling you, they literally were everywhere. They were at the top of the stairs and at the bottom. They were along the hallways, near the gift shops, outside the restrooms — just everywhere — and all of them seemed to be so happy. They were not only happy, but they had this hopeful look on their faces as though they wanted to engage you in conversation or do something for you. After seeing a number of these clusters of folks, who grinned and wanted to help me, my curiosity got overloaded. I finally asked one of them, "Who are all you folks? Are you with a tour group?" "Oh no," was the reply. I said, "Well, I noticed you all had on the same shirts and I just wondered what you were doing." A lady standing nearby said, "We're looking for lost folks." At that point, I saw a gold name tag on a fellow and it said, "Navigator." Then, I thought these were probably people who were with the

Navigators — you know, the Scripture memory folks. I figured that they had come to the airport to share the Lord with folks. Wrong!

These people at the Phoenix Airport were volunteers who came to this large, spread-out airport, to help people find their way to their plane, or to their car, or to the restrooms, or to the restaurants — or just wherever! I asked this group, "Do I look lost?" They replied, "No, but that's the reason we are here — we don't want you to be." Boy, was I impressed! I had never heard of such a thing. They told me that there were organizations in a few other airports like Phoenix, especially in Washington State, where these "Navigators" just spend their time watching for lost people and helping them find their way.

I want you to know these folks taught me something. They taught me something that I think the Lord probably tries to teach all of us. I am going to pass along to you the lessons to my heart that I learned on this day at the Phoenix Airport.

• If you are going to guide others and help them, you must know where YOU are. These Navigator folks were well aware of where they were. They had to know, in order to help others get where they needed to be.

• To be helpful and beneficial to others, you have to get yourself in a position to help

them. Now, just for the sake of thought — what if all of these people gathered together at some community building or some lodge, and there they enjoy seeing one another, maybe have some snacks and enjoy the fellowship; but, they would not be in a position to help people find their way. What if, on the other hand, that becomes the full expression of our Christian walk? What if we just gather together in some building on Sunday mornings, sing a few songs, speak to each other, and possibly even make a contribution (all so that we can keep the heating and cooling going so that we can enjoy our gatherings more), and we never get out into the flow of humanity that may be lost?

• If you are going to be helpful to folks trying to find their way, it does require that you be alert and sensitive to what may be going on in their lives. You have to be aware of folks around you. You need to be alert and sensitive to them without them ever having to explain that they may be bewildered, lost, and uncertain as to where or what they need to do.

• It is important to keep in mind that your purpose for being where you are is for them — not you! These Navigator folks that I ran into in the airport did not seem to have any concern for themselves. They didn't seem to be concerned whether or not they were hungry, or late for an appointment; in fact, all they seemed to care about was letting me know that they were there for me. There are probably times that we can all recall where we might not have left the impression of concern, helpfulness, and caring for some folks in our churches as we should have. We must remember, we do not exist for us. Once we come to know Jesus, we are bought with the price of His love and sacrifice; therefore, we belong to Him and exist for others.

Wouldn't it be a marvelous thing if not only all of our churches had an organization called Navigators to help people from getting lost, or lost people to find their way, but if everyone of us who are part of the Lord's church (young, old and all in-between), were commissioned by Jesus to be Navigators! We would be stationed everywhere in life — at home, in business, on the streets, in the restaurants, on planes, and in hospitals, all with the clear purpose in mind of helping folks find their way to "The Way." We would be helping people to find their way to having a living experience with Jesus who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man comes unto the Father but by me."

Whether everybody or anybody else joins in, why don't you commit today to being one of the Lord's Navigators?



had big, bright, friendly smiles on their faces. Every one of them, with no exception, greeted me and acted as though they wanted me to stop and talk to them. Why, several of them just

## Gulf Coast Baptists ink pact with Maine

By Drewe Llyn Jeffcoat  
Correspondent

It is not mission trips; it is journeying. It is not "rescuing;" it is reciprocal ministry. It's not sponsorship; it's facilitating and enabling. That's how Missions Director Tommy Mitchell envisions Gulf Coast Association's new partnership with Baptists in Maine.

Mitchell came to the Gulf Coast Association (GCBA) two years ago with a vision to get the churches of Hancock, Harrison, and Stone Counties more involved in missions. He and GCBA's missions strategy team did not want to simply organize and lead short term trips to various places; they wanted to be facilitators and mobilizers that sparked long term, personal involvement within individual congregations.

They wanted goals set, evaluated, and met. They wanted commitment.

As he and the strategy team prayed and talked with Ken Rhodes, Missions Mobilization Director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson, it became clear that the Lord was leading the association to partner with Baptists in the state of Maine. They connected with Ray Allen, director of missions

for the Baptist Convention of New England, and in October 2002 both the Mississippi and Maine groups voted to enter into a five-year partnership.

Shortly after that meeting, Jimmy and Ginger Woods of Pearl went to Maine on behalf of GCBA to serve three months as interim associational missionaries. Gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering assisted the Woods with scholarship money from the Volunteer Missionary Assistance allocation. The Woods were able to see first hand what challenges the pastors and congregations faced in reaching Maine for the Lord.

The task is formidable. According to Allen, 90-96% of Mainers are not involved with any church of any kind. As far as Southern Baptist work goes, there are only 11 established churches and five mission churches in the entire state. Of Maine's top one hundred cities, 85 have no Southern Baptist witness at all. That includes Augusta, making it the only U.S. state capital without a Southern Baptist Convention congregation.

These statistics do not dampen Mitchell's enthusiasm. He and the GCBA have experience in working in tough areas. According to statistics gathered by the

MBCB Church Planting Department, 74% of the Mississippi Gulf Coast population is unchurched, making it the highest unchurched area of Mississippi.

The Maine work has already begun. On April 9-13, GCBA sent Mitchell, Dionne Williams, Mendy King, and Linda Kittrell to Portland, Maine, to hold a pastor's leadership conference. Two weeks later eight Maine pastors spent a long weekend on the Gulf Coast, visiting different churches and attending the association's Spring Conference.

Teams are currently mobilizing for prayerwalking and surveying; conducting leadership training, Vacation Bible Schools, Backyard Bible Clubs and revivals; and participating in various types of construction work. So far, eight GCBA churches have answered the call to help Maine pastors in any way they can.

According to Mitchell, the GCBA philosophy is: "We are not coming to rescue you; we are here to minister to you and learn from you. The church leaders of Maine do not want to become dependent; this is a partnership. Our people want to help them become self-sufficient. We want it to be a reciprocal relationship."



# Messengers offer motions at SBC meeting

PHOENIX (EN) — Should Southern Baptist military chaplains be ordained ministers? Navy Capt. Al Hill thinks so.

During the opening session of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Phoenix on June 17, Hill offered a motion requiring that ordination to pastoral ministry be required for all people endorsed for military chaplaincy by the convention's North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Hill's motion was one of 12 presented during the two-day meeting. Nine, including Hill's, were referred to SBC entities, and three were ruled out of order. No miscellaneous business item, including Hill's, was debated by the 7,008 messengers gathered in the Phoenix Civic Plaza.

A motion instructing the SBC Executive Committee and other SBC entities to accept funds from Baptist individuals, churches, associations, conventions, and organizations originally was ruled out of order because it called on messengers to "exercise authority given to the trustees of the various entities."

However, the order of business committee offered to meet with Brian Kaylor of Union Mound Church in Elkland, Mo., to reword the motion in a way that would make it acceptable. After the motion was reworded, it was referred to all SBC entities that would be affected by the proposed action.

The motion appeared aimed at the decision by the SBC Executive Committee not to accept funds from a recently formed state convention in Missouri. The new convention was formed after changes in leadership of the traditional state convention, the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Five motions were referred to the SBC Executive Committee. Two messengers moved that the SBC annual meeting be held in their respective areas. Bob Mackey of Parma Church in Ohio asked that the annual meeting be held in Cleveland by 2010 or as soon as possible.

Ben Brazal of King of Kings Christian Fellowship in Bronx, N.Y., moved that the convention meet in New York City.

Bobby Greene of Beulah Church in Kents Stone, Va., asked that the convention calendar include an annual emphasis on God's creation being done in six 24-hour days and on the worldwide flood.

The Executive Committee also will consider a motion requesting a special offering to be collected in July for the International Mission Board to help make up shortfalls in the mission agency's budget. The motion was offered by Greg Hyland of River Valley Community Church in Lebanon, N.H.

Messengers also voted to refer to the Executive Committee a request that proposed resolutions be distributed to the messengers at least one session prior to their consideration.

In addition to the motion by Chaplain Hill, NAMB received two motions dealing with efforts to reach internationals in the United States. Jamal Buhara of Phoenix asked for increased "attention and funding" for ministries to Middle Eastern immigrants. Lawson Lau of Illinois asked for cooperation between NAMB and the IMB to reach two million international students and scholars studying in the United States.

Two motions by Wiley Drake of First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif., were ruled out of order. Drake's first motion sought to amend the annual meeting's order of business to allow a five-minute report from Crusade Radio, a program which he directs, about its support for President Bush. Drake's second motion sought to suspend SBC Bylaw 20 to allow presentation of resolutions from the floor. Bylaw 20 requires advance submission of all proposed resolutions.

Earlier, the resolutions committee declined to accept resolutions from Drake because they were not submitted prior to the meeting.

Also ruled out of order was a motion by Roy Davis of North Shreveport Church in Louisiana asking that the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention be declared host of the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix. In declaring the motion out of order, the order of business committee reminded messengers that state conventions are autonomous bodies and cannot be instructed by the SBC.

A motion to reconsider the reduced budget allocation to the Baptist World Alliance was offered by Jim Stroud of Third Creek Church in Knoxville. After determining that Stroud had voted for the budget the previous day, the motion was introduced and soundly defeated.

## BCV benefit slated July 12

Kennedy Springs Church, Magee, will host a For God and Country concert beginning at 6:30 p.m. on July 12, to benefit the Baptist Children's Village (BCV). The Gospel music concert will feature The Next Generation, The Chalks, New Life Quartet, and Liberty Quartet. Kennedy Springs Church is located on Highway 540, eight miles northeast of Magee. Admission is free. A love offering will be received for the Baptist Children's Village. For more information call (601) 847-5339.

## Mississippian is named to NOBTS post

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) professor Jerry Barlow has been appointed as the seminary's dean of graduate studies, President Chuck Kelley announced during the trustee executive committee meeting June 10.

Barlow, a Mississippi native, holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Baptist-affiliated William Carey College in Hattiesburg. He went on to serve as a gunnery officer in the U.S. Navy.

Later, Barlow earned the master of divinity and the doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He came back to New Orleans Seminary in 1996 to lead the department of general education in the College of Undergraduate Studies, now Leavell College, after serving as pastor of First Church in Franklinton, La., for 15 years. In 1998, Barlow began teaching graduate courses in the division of pastoral ministries.



Barlow

## SBC resolutions approved on variety of issues

PHOENIX (EN) — Southern Baptists punctuated key themes of their annual gathering with statements affirming "kingdom families" and condemning homosexual unions. Those topics highlighted a slate of eight resolutions approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting June 18 in Phoenix.

Messengers zipped through the resolutions, pausing only briefly to defeat two amendments proposed by Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Ca., and a perennial fixture at SBC microphones known for offering a spate of motions and resolutions.

The resolutions approved by messengers:

- Condemned abortion. "Scripture reveals that all human life is created in the image of God and therefore sacred to our Creator," the resolution stated.

- Affirmed the war that resulted in the "liberation of Iraq." "We believe Operation Iraqi Freedom was a warranted action based upon historic principles of just war," the resolution said.

- Declared "absolute religious liberty" to be a basic human right that should be affirmed globally. "Southern Baptists have been subject to intense criticism for our insistence that a faith which engenders or encourages religious persecution or interferes with the free exercise of religion is not consistent with the revelation of God," the resolution said.

- Denounced "all forms of anti-Semitism as contrary to the teachings of our Messiah and an assault on the revelation of Holy Scripture." The anti-Semitism resolution noted Southern Baptists "deplore all forms of hatred or bigotry toward any person or people group..."

- Supported humanitarian efforts to combat the AIDS crisis around the globe and urged prayer for and ministry to AIDS victims. The resolution noted the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in Africa and affirmed emergency relief, such as \$15 billion allocated by President Bush and Congress to combat the disease in Africa during the next five years.

- Thanked all the people

whom God used "to bring about a convention characterized by grace, evangelism, worship, encouragement, unity, and purpose."

This year, a new convention bylaw required messengers to submit proposed resolutions in advance of the annual meeting.

Resolutions Committee Chairman Mike Hamlet, pastor of First Church of North Spartanburg, S.C., declared the procedure a success but Drake, whose amendments to resolutions lost overwhelmingly, proposed a motion to suspend the submit-in-advance bylaw. Convention parliamentarians ruled his motion out of order, noting the bylaw could not be suspended.



## HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Friendship, McComb:** July 11-13; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Tim Parker, Tracey Hipps, Cliff Pace, Ted Bowlin, evangelists; Don Brown, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

**Rocky Creek, Lucedale:** July 13; L. H. McCollough, guest speaker; lunch will follow in the activities building; Grant McLain, pastor.

**Enon, Louisville:** July 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Bozeman, evangelist; Reggie Lovorn, music.

**First, Satartia:** July 20-23; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will be served; afternoon singing; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Bobby Anderson, speaking; Bill and Martha Martin, music.

**Mt. Vernon, Liberty:** July 20; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on grounds; Scott Cappleman, speaking; Steve Bishop, music; Clint Penalber, pastor.

**Glendale, Leland:** July 13-18; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Barron Pilgrim, evangelist; Michael Prestridge, music.

**McAdams, Kosciusko:** July 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m., a covered dish will be served, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m., with choir rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.; Randle S. Poss, evangelist; Wayne Ward, music; Dan West, pastor.

**Moak's Creek, Bogue Chitto:** July 13-18; Sunday, 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Willie Welch, preaching; Tom and Willa Moak, music.

**Harmony, Louisville:** July 20-25; 120th anniversary; Larry Duncan, Salem, Lake, evangelist; Dave Tribble, music; for more information, call (662) 773-7521.

**Utica, Utica:** July 13-16; Season of Summer Renewal - Living a Life of Significance; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rob Futral and Jim Farrish, Country Woods, Byram, special family emphasis; Ben James, pastor.

**Murphy Creek, Louisville:** July 13-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, evangelist; Barry Bouchillon, music; Walter Simmons, pastor.

**Vaiden, Vaiden:** July 13-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jake Roudkovski, First, Ponchatoula, La., evangelist;



West Salem Church, Richton

Barry Worrell, Emmanuel, Grenada, music; R. Leon Holly, pastor.

**McCool, McCool:** July 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joe Pate, Parkway, Kosciusko, preaching; Hugh Ballard, Springdale, Attala, music.

**Beulah, Decatur:** July 13-18; Sunday, 10:50 a.m., a meal will be served, and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ed Knox, evangelist; Alvyn Moore, music.

**Goodwater, Forest:** July 13; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; cemetery association meeting, 1:30 p.m.; Scott Walters, preaching; Aug. 3: 3-day revival; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon lunch, and afternoon worship; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sonny Adkins, preaching; Robin Brumfield, pastor.

**West Salem Church, Richton,** dedicated their new sanctuary in Homecoming festivities on June 1. Pictured are some of the members and friends in attendance.

**Cedar View Church, Olive Branch,** will hold a community sing on July 19 at 6 p.m. Witness is the featured musical group.

**Big Level Church, Wiggins,** will hold VBS on July 14-18 from 6-9 p.m.

Children, age 4-6th grade are invited to attend. For more information, call (601) 928-3898.

**New Hope Church, Foxworth,** held VBS on June 2-6. The total enrollment was 135 with an average of 116 and 7 accepted Christ. The total offering sent to the Baptist Children's Village was \$381.19.

**Williamsville Church, Kosciusko,** recently held RA and GA awards ceremonies. GA leaders are Anne Plunkett, Tammy Webber, Daphne Dabbs, and Karen Reynolds. RA leaders are Danny Plunkett, Stanley Sanders, Wes Breazeale, and Dexter Dabbs.

**Williamsville Church, Kosciusko,** held VBS June 2-6. Pictured are the participants. Carolyn Russell and Cynthia Dean were coordinators.

**Pinckney Church, Union,** held VBS June 16-20. The total enrollment was 54 was an average of 48 and 4 professions of faith were made. Mike Fondren is pastor.

**McAdams Church, Sallis, and Sallis Church, Sallis,** co-sponsored an area VBS on June 2-6 at Sallis Church. The average attendance was 88 and \$1,069 was given to the Baptist Children's Village. Dan West and Thomas Wicker are pastors.

**Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven,** held a Memorial Day service on May 25 recognizing the veterans who were present. Veterans participating in the service were: Ben Myers, Thad Owens, Ed Smith, Perry Spencer, Clyde Case, Dolphus Carlisle, Jewell Smith, Jerry Ratliff, Steve Smith, and Hubert Buford.

**Hardy Church, Grenada,** held VBS on June 2-6. There were 102 enrolled and 8 professions of faith were made.



Williamsville Church VBS Participants, Kosciusko



Williamsville Church RAs, Kosciusko

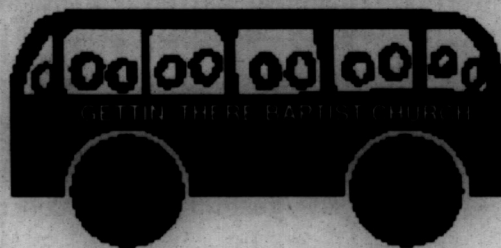


Williamsville Church GAs, Kosciusko

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 10, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## Pastor and Wife Retreat

August 7 (2 p.m.) - August 9 (1 p.m.) Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

**Lew King**  
Minister of Music  
FBC, Byram

**Dr. and Mrs. P.J. Scott**  
Pastor and wife  
FBC, Olive Branch

For more info, contact MBCB Pastor/Leadership Development  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305.



## State Senior Adult Rally

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 28**  
**Ridgecrest Baptist Church**  
**MADISON**

**8:30 - 11:30 a.m.**  
**Cost: \$1 at the door**

For more info, call the  
Discipleship & Family Ministry  
Department  
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at  
601-292-3305.

**GEORGE FIELDS**  
**America's Musical Humorist**  
**Louisville, Ky.**

## Mississippi WMU Church Leadership Training

Special  
Interest &  
Core  
Conferences

### 3 GREAT 2003 LOCATIONS

**FBC, SENATOBIA**  
August 19  
6:30-9:15 p.m.

**CAMP GARAYWA**  
August 22-23  
3:30 p.m.

**FBC, WIGGINS**  
August 26  
6:30-9:15 p.m.

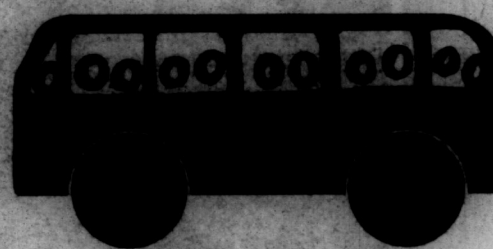
#### Core Conferences at all 3 locations:

- Getting Ready for the New Church Year:
  - WMU Directors
  - Women's Groups
  - Adults on Mission
  - Missions Friends
- Acteens/Youth on Mission
- GAs/Children in Action

#### Additional conferences at Garaywa only:

- Chronological Bible Storying
- Spanish-Yo Puedo Empezar Un Grupo Misionero?
- Forgiveness: The Beginning to Racial Reconciliation
- Sisters Not Rivals (WFM & WMU)
  - Servant Leadership
- Restorative Justice - Our State's Plan
  - New Acteens Curriculum
  - New World Ventures
- And more ... Missionaries, Idea Swap, etc.

Registration form available at  
[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org), or call the Mississippi  
WMU at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317  
or 601-292-3317



## Annual Missions Celebration Bus Tour October 3-4

Departing from Camp  
Garaywa at 7 a.m. for the  
Annual Missions Celebration  
at Harrisburg BC, Tupelo  
**COST\***

Single: \$107      Double: \$70  
Triple: \$62      Quad: \$54

\* Cost includes one night's lodging at  
the Hampton Inn, continental breakfast  
& bus transportation. Thursday night  
accommodations are available in the  
Camp Garaywa guest house for an  
additional \$14.

Registration form available at  
[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org), or call the Mississippi  
WMU at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317  
or 601-292-3317

## Mission & Ministry Conference

Leadership Development for

WMU, Men's Ministry and Community Ministry

**STROUDSBURG, PENN., SEPTEMBER 11-14**  
(actual event: September 12-13)

#### COST\*

• Double \$355 • Triple \$343 • Quad \$332  
\*Includes conference housing & meals,  
bus transportation & 2 nights lodging on  
the road

For info or registration form,  
(online), [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org),  
or call the Mississippi WMU  
at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317  
or 601-292-3317



# Mississippi CWJC



National  
Certification  
Training  
for Site  
Coordinators

October 20-24

Cost: \$113

The Woods BC  
Tyler, Tex.

## Level 1

New Site Coordinators  
(Spanish translation available)

## Level 2

Existing Site Coordinators

Questions? Call Sandra Nash at  
601-924-9205 or E-mail

snnash@aol.com; or Tammy Anderson,  
Miss. WMU, at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317  
or 601-292-3317 or E-mail  
tanderson@mbcb.org

Registration form online: [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

## VOLUNTEER MISSION REPORT

### Been on a mission trip???

Each year the MCB Men's  
Ministry reports to the Mississippi  
Baptist Convention Board the num-  
ber of people in Mississippi who  
were involved in volunteer missions,  
where they went, etc.

Please help us by reporting your  
church and/or association  
involvement no later than August 15.

For report forms, please contact the  
Men's Ministry at 1-800-748-1651  
or 601-292-3334.

## Disaster Relief

UDAL: \$1.5 MILLION



**A CUP OF COLD WATER IN JESUS' NAME.** In 2002 over  
12,000 meals were served to those affected by tornadoes,  
hurricanes and flooding. Disaster Relief ministries open  
evangelism doors by serving the physical as well as the spiri-  
tual needs of people.

Mississippi Baptists touch others in need by being Jesus' hands  
and feet in many different ways. Over 200 trained volunteers  
minister to those in crisis through Disaster Relief. CWJC focus-  
es on women caught in a cycle of poverty and offers witness and  
mentoring. Literacy Ministries addresses Mississippi's high  
illiteracy rate and introduces participants to the words of  
Christ. Also, ministers and congregations often face the stress  
of life and conflicts. Monies from the Margaret Lackey Offering  
can provide help for counseling and restoration. With help from  
the Margaret Lackey Offering, thousands of people are touched  
with Christ's love and provisions.

For more info, contact Debbie Sills, Mission Strategy,  
MBCB, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3320.



Doctrine of Jesus

Cost: \$10

## 2004 BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY

PRELIMINARY

EDITED BY REX YANCY

### BRUNCH AND PRELIMINARY

January 19

First Baptist Church, Biloxi

January 20

Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson

January 21

First Baptist Church, Starkville

## THE SUIT PROJECT

Mississippi Baptists say "Merry  
Christmas" to pastors in the  
Alaska, Hawaii, and Iowa  
Conventions.

### What is it?

For over 39 years Mississippi  
Baptists have enjoyed send-  
ing new suits to the pastors in  
new work areas. This is our  
way of letting the pastors in  
these areas of Southern  
Baptist life know that we care  
about and support them in  
their work.

### What can you do?

Men's Ministry, RA, and WMU  
groups, individuals, churches, etc.,  
can send their gifts payable to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Attention: Men's Ministry Department  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Cost: \$130 per suit  
Designate on your check: Suit  
Project

For more information, contact the  
Men's Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3335.



### SPECIAL MINISTRY FOR THE PASTORS' WIVES

If funds are available, we will send  
clothing gift certificates for the wives.



# State Literacy Missions Workshop

**November 13-15**  
**Camp Garaywa, Clinton**

Choose from:

- English as a Second Language (New)
- English as a Second Language (Experienced)
- Adult Reading and Writing
- Tutoring Children and Youth
- Chronological Bible Storying

Registration Deadline, October 24th

For info or registration  
form, (online),  
[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org),  
or call the  
Mississippi WMU at  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 317  
or 601-292-3317



## Mississippi Baptists 2003 Bible Drill Clinics

**Question:** What is the one thing we want  
our children and youth to know?  
**Answer:** The Bible, God's Word.

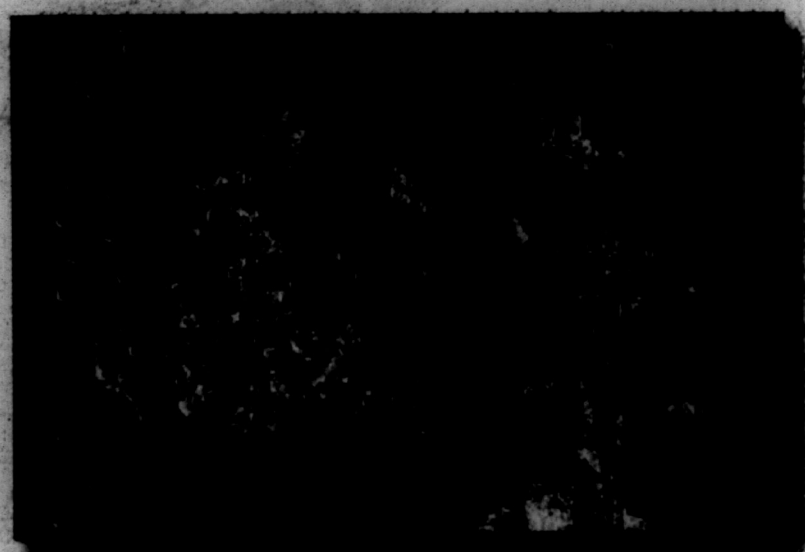
So, how do you make sure that this is taking in your church?  
Consider Bible Drill. Mississippi led the nation last year in the  
number of children and youth who were a part of this ministry of  
teaching God's Word to students. Why not be a part of Bible Drill  
this year? Learn more about how you can participate by attending  
one of the following Bible Drill clinics.

### LOCATIONS

**Monday, September 8** FBC, Picayune, & FBC, Senatobia  
**Tuesday, September 9** West McComb BC, McComb, & FBC, Slatillo  
**Thursday, September 1** Forest BC, Forest, & FBC, Louisville

*All clinics are 7-8:30 p.m.*

For more info, please call the Discipleship & Family  
Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or  
by E-mail at [dpapizan@mbcb.org](mailto:dpapizan@mbcb.org).



Live the voyage of life with passion...

**A Passion for Christ!**

**JULY 14 - 18**

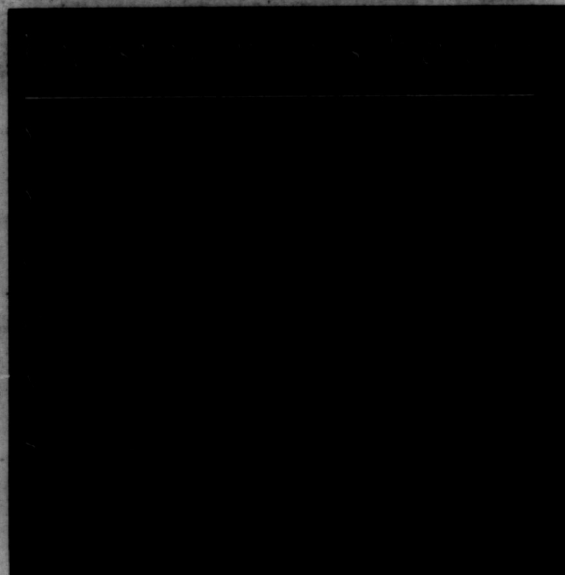
For more info, call the Discipleship & Family Ministry  
Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 601-292-3305.

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**"Building a Transformational  
Sunday School"**

*A Sunday School training event for all age groups*



### Specialized Conferences

- Pastor/Staff Conferences
- Discipleship Conferences

**Give Your  
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the Strength that  
It Needs!**

**Longview Heights  
Baptist Church, Olive Branch**  
Saturday, August 23  
9 a.m.-noon

**First Baptist Church, McComb**  
Saturday, August 23  
9 a.m.-noon

**&  
Country Woods  
Baptist Church, Jackson**  
Saturday, September 13  
9 a.m.-noon

*Conference leaders include  
Mississippi Baptist consultants,  
equippers, and special guests.*

**NO COST!**

Preregistration deadline  
is July 23, 2003.

For more info, or to register, contact:  
Sunday School Department, MBCB  
601-292-3291 or 1-800-748-1651

## TEACHER APPRECIATION & PRAYERWALK FOR SCHOOLS Sunday, August 3

- Communion Service • PrayerWalk
- Commissioning Teachers of Purpose

For info sheets on *PrayerWalking Local Schools* for principals, for pastors  
and for participants, call 601-292-3324 or E-mail [KBurris@mbcb.org](mailto:KBurris@mbcb.org).  
Order *PrayerWalking Key Chains* from [www.prayerclosetministries.org](http://www.prayerclosetministries.org) or  
call Kevin Meador at 601-635-2180.



## Pray this day for...

July 11-24, 2003

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Need wisdom? It's not what you know: it's who you know."  
Sue Kline

Please pray for a grieving Luguru mother in Tanzania. When she became a Christian, her family turned their back on her. Her baby died after a few weeks of illness. Pray that she will feel God's comfort and presence and be a witness to her family even through her grief.

Ask God to guide missionaries in various countries who are preparing to receive volunteer mission groups this summer. Remember, many national churches are in need of follow-up and discipleship with new believers and those who have expressed interest in following Christ.

For: (1) GA Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 14th - 18th (WMU); (2) Summer Missions Camp for Boys (Grades 4-12), Central Hills, Kosciusko, 10 a.m., 14th - 1 p.m., 18th (MM); (3) Super Summer, Mississippi College, Clinton, noon, 14th - 1 p.m., 18th (D&FM).

For: (1) GA Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 21st - 25th (WMU); (2) Summer Missions Camp for Boys (Grades 4-12), Central Hills, Kosciusko, 10 a.m., 21st - 1 p.m., 25th (MM); (3) Young Musicians' Camp, Blue Mountain College, 2:30 p.m., 21st - 8 a.m., 25th (CM).

Recent developments in Nepal seem to encourage officials to stop Christians in their activities there. Three Christians were arrested because they had Bibles with them. Family members were also arrested when they went to visit the believers. Please pray that Christians will be allowed to move about freely in their daily lives.

In Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, there are several professionals who are very close to making decisions for Christ. Pray especially for the V. Family to have courage and boldness to make the drastic change from practicing a religion to having a personal relationship with Jesus.

About 132 million Shaikh Muslims live intermingled with other people throughout the South Asia countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. While some Shaikh Christian workers do share a gospel witness among the Shaikhs, ministering among Muslims can be difficult. Pray that Shaikhs would desire to know more about the "Isa" (Jesus) of the Koran.

Team Netherlands has relationships with many displaced families in the Netherlands. Each family has a different yet tragic story. Please petition that team members will be able to offer these families a love that brings encouragement, joy and refreshment to their seemingly hopeless situations.

For: (1) Centri-Kid, Gulfshore, 17th - 19th (LifeWay); (2) Pray for witnessing among the German-Brazilians in the Vale dos Sinos in Brazil's southern-most state. The challenge in reaching them is that some use Portuguese, others use a mixture, and some use traditional German. Pray for workers who can speak their languages.

For: (1) Growing Churches, Gulfshore, 24th - 26th (D&FM); (2) Church Library Ministry Conference, Gulfshore, 24th - 26th (CS); (3) John and Kathy McNair, missionaries in Montevideo, Uruguay, celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary on June 26. Pray that their ministry can continue to bear much fruit.

For: (1) Father/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 11th-12th (WMU); (2) Pray for an end to looting and a return of civil order and adequate policing in Iraq. Looting has severely damaged nearly every aspect of life in the cities, from hospitals with no electricity to university libraries being burned down. Pray that the Iraqis will find eternal security in Christ.

For: (1) 11 Centrifuge, Gulfshore, 12th-17th (LifeWay); (2) Melissa Cheliras is a Mission Service Corps missionary working as campus minister to students at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Pray that students will come to know Christ, and that Melissa will have wisdom as she shares the gospel with them.

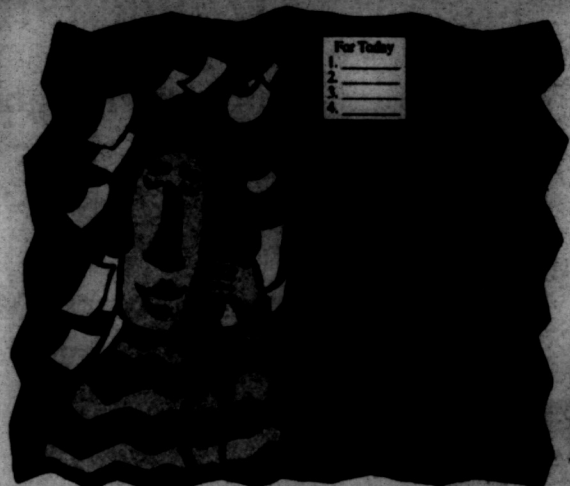
For: (1) 11 Centrifuge, Gulfshore, 19th - 24th (LifeWay); (2) Doug and Carla Jones are church planters currently working to plant a series of churches throughout downtown Denver. Pray that the churches will grow, and that God will call laborers to start other churches throughout Colorado.



AUGUST

2003

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Ministry Office SkillShops



Glenda  
Suggs  
Professional  
Certification



Sarah  
Farmer  
Skillshops



September 9-11  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

The SkillShop topic offered this year is:

**APPLYING SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN MINISTRY** — Do you know that God loves you so much that He has given you a special gift? Do you know what that gift is? Are you applying that gift to your ministry in the office? Applying Spiritual Gifts in Ministry will help you understand the spiritual gifts, identify your own spiritual giftedness, and discover how you can use your gifts through your office and personal ministry. This study could change your life and perspective on ministry!

NOTE: This is a three-day Skillshop. Two Continuing Education Units will be awarded.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Kay McDonnell, 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3305 or E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

You should register by August 29, 2003. There will be a \$5 late fee after August 29.

HOUSE TOPS



## COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

The Mississippi College Graduate School of Business offers a leading edge course on Church Management and Leadership each year. The program is designed to further the professional development of current and future church leaders which will enable them to lead their churches to greater heights of excellence. For more information, call (601) 924-7756.

Robert Knupp, Assistant Professor of Music at Mississippi College, has been invited to perform a recital at the Washington National Cathedral on August 10 at 5 p.m., Washington, D.C. The recital is a part of the Washington National Cathedral's organ recital series.

Oral Church, Hattiesburg, held a luncheon on May 18 for their graduates. Johnny Martin, pastor, received the Baccalaureate student of the year from NOBTS. Tasha Fillingane received a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Mississippi and was inducted into the Gold Key Honor Society.

## STATE CHANGES

Wayside Church, Vicksburg, called James Darrell White as pastor on May 1. He graduated from NOBTS in December 2000 and previously served at Smyrna Church, Hazlehurst.

Moak's Creek Church, Summit, called Carl Estes as pastor effective June 15. Estes and his wife are settling in the Parsonage.

Mike Weaver has been called as pastor at Woodland Church, Pontotoc. Weaver served as their interim pastor. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College.

Washington Church, Washington, called Terry L. Upchurch as pastor effective June 15. Upchurch comes from Mt. Olive, Meridian.



White



Weaver

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

Goss Church, Columbia, held VBS June 2-6. The total enrollment was 174 with an average of 142 and 3 accepted Christ. Melinda King was the director. Mark McArthur is pastor.

Goss Church, Columbia, presented the musical Down By the Creek Bank on May 4. Alicia Bass and Melinda King were the directors.

Leesa Hayes and Craig Bullock of West Corinth Church, Corinth, participated in children's state bible drills at First Church, Tupelo. Pictured (from left) are Bullock, Linda Cooley, and Hayes.



Bullock, Cooley, and Hayes



Goss Church VBS Participants, Columbia

Navilla Church, McComb, will hold a blessing party honoring Dwayne and Donna Brown, and their children, Austin and Katelyn, on July 17 from 7-9 p.m. The Browns are preparing to leave for the mission field in Romania.



Goss Church Children's Choir, Columbia

## Pollard signs biography on July 12

Frank Pollard, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and retired pastor of First Church, Jackson, will sign copies of his just-published biography by Bob Pittman July 12 from noon-3 p.m. at Lemuria Bookstore in Jackson. Lemuria Bookstore is located in Banner Hall on the west frontage road of Interstate 55 between the Meadowbrook Road and Northside Drive exits.

The biography, entitled Chosen — The Mission and Message of Frank Pollard, traces the long-time pastor's life from his poverty-stricken Texas roots, to being named one of the top Protestant preachers in America in 1979 by Time Magazine, to his recent retirement.

Author Pittman, a member of First Church, Jackson, will be on hand for the signing.

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Making a difference.**

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**ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM SCREENING**  
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Men 50 years of age or older, females 55 years of age or older or individuals with a family history of AAA are eligible for the screening. Call the Baptist Health Line to schedule an appointment.

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- Family history
- Smoking
- High blood pressure

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- Glucose testing
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## NAMES IN THE NEWS

Calvary Church, Jackson, recognized Tom and Lucile Winstead for 50 years of pioneering and faithful ministry working with bible drills on the church, association, state, and national levels. Pictured (from left) are Gil Powell, and the Winsteds.



Gil Powell and Tom & Lucile Winstead

Glendale Church, Leland, announced Roy and Tressie Webb as Man and Woman of the Year 2002. Roy Webb currently serves as a deacon at Glendale.



Williamsville Church Bible Drill Participants, Kosciusko

Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, recently held bible drills. Pictured (from left, front) are Sarah Papisan, Micah East,



Ken White, pastor, Jason & Jessie Howell, and Lenard Howell



Melanie & Josh Granger and David & Patricia Patterson

Lin, Chelsea Chipley, Jordan East, and Dustin Gentry.

Billy Joe Higgins was ordained as deacon at Ebenezer Church, liberty, on May 25. Pictured (from left) are Charles Kirkfield, pastor, and Higgins.

Beulah Church, Myrtle, licensed Jason Howell to the ministry on April 27. Pictured (from left) are Ken White, pastor, Howell, his wife Jessie, and Lenard Howell.

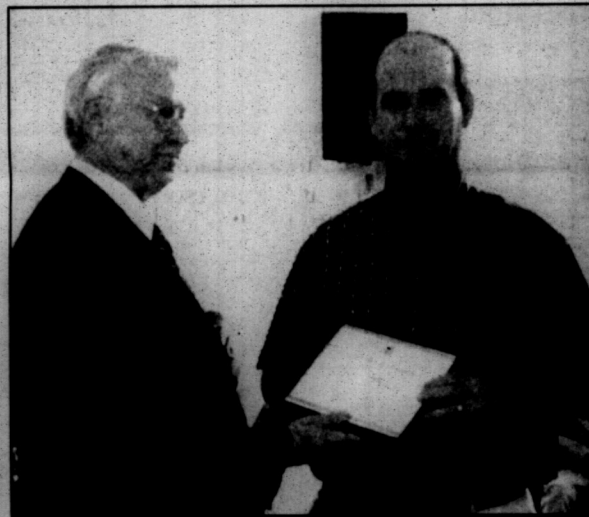


Springfield Church Summer Missionaries, Morton

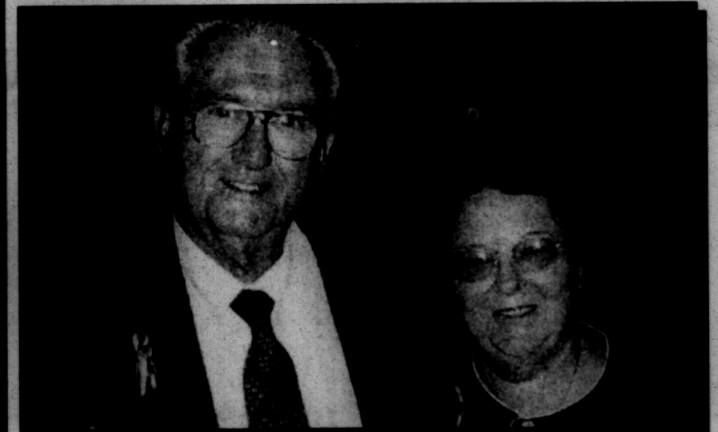
Springfield Church, Morton, held a commissioning service for summer missionaries on May 20. Pictured (from left) are Jacob Winscott, youth director, Joe Smith, his wife Irene, Mary Nell Napp, Stephanie Winstead, Emily Wade, and Frank Lay, pastor.

Highland Church, Crystal Springs, licensed Josh Granger into the ministry recently. Pictured (from left) are his wife Melanie, Granger,

Jacob Buchanan, Ben East, (back) Patricia Patterson.



Charles Kirkfield & Billy Joe Higgins



Roy & Tressie Webb

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# Patterson tapped as new SWBTS president

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Paige Patterson accepted the unanimous invitation of the trustees of Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) to serve as the school's eighth president effective August 1. In a news conference following the June 24 vote, Patterson, age 60, said the transition from one seminary president to another naturally causes faculty and staff to be anxious.

"The problem is exacerbated by the fact that some of us have certain kinds of reputations that may or may not be fully deserved," he said. He pledged, "We come to you with open arms, love in our hearts, and a desire to see Southwestern Seminary be everything it ought to be for the glory of God."

Patterson replaces Ken Hemphill, who announced April 8 that he would leave the seminary to take a newly-created post with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville.

First contacted on May 15, Patterson said that in his "wildest imagination I never dreamed I would be standing here today. Nor did I have any particular interest in it. When you are totally satisfied and happy and blessed of God beyond any possible way to assess it and someone says, 'Are you interested in moving?' the answer is, 'No, I am not.'"

His change of heart occurred on June 10 at 35,000 feet over the Atlantic Ocean, Patterson said in his letter of resignation to Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. "God spoke decisively to my heart," he told the media.

Patterson described the faculty of Southwestern Seminary as "exceedingly kind and gentle" in the private meeting held June 24. "When the philosophy department went to the microphone I was temporarily stymied with fear that there would be some question about Kantian realism or something of that nature," he quipped.

One reporter asked Patterson if he would "push for faculty changes." The president-elect said, "It was never necessary to relinquish anyone" when he took office at Southeastern Seminary. "I cannot imagine any circumstance in which I

would come in and, as you said, clean house. I would prefer instead to motivate on a much higher level."

Patterson said the "most important" hiring criterion is that prospective faculty members "be genuine men and women of God who have learned to walk with God and know what that means. They must be good husbands or wives and good fathers and mothers. I'm more concerned about modeling those kinds of things than just about anything else."

He said he expects faculty members to be "consistent witnesses for Christ" who "share their faith with people everywhere."

Furthermore, Patterson said he will be looking for people who are "adequately credentialed with the appropriate terminal degrees," who have "proven their ability in those areas and are willing to contribute to theological literature" through writing and teaching. He emphasized competence in classroom teaching "because I have a deep-seated conviction that it's a sin to be boring." And finally, prospective faculty must operate within the guidelines of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

Patterson was asked whether he would allow a woman to teach in the seminary's school of theology. Noting that his wife Dorothy had served on the faculty at Southeastern Seminary teaching in the women's studies program she developed within the division of theology, Patterson said that information provided "something of an answer." Earlier, the board unanimously elected her as a full professor without pay while having faculty benefits.

"It would not be my purpose as a leader to do anything in the school of theology that would be something other than what I would want our churches to imitate." Expecting that "there are ample numbers of men who are well-qualified for those positions," Patterson said he plans to build the faculty with "God-called men." He said opportunities arise for women to teach in the areas of Christian education, ministry to women and children as well as music ministry.

"The New Testament is crystal clear that pastors are to be men," he said, calling for the seminary to "stay with the biblical pattern." He affirmed his belief in "the absolute equality of essence," adding, "It's a question of the assignment of roles that God gives."



Patterson also said he told the faculty of his desire for an endowed program that would place every student in a third-world mission field as a church planter.

"If that student goes to pastor a church, he's not going to fail to talk about that missions experience and will call out the called." Through dependence upon God during culture shock and language barriers, students "see that God does the impossible," Patterson said. "Wherever else he goes, he'll never forget that..."

**APPROVED BY TRUSTEES**  
— New Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson (left) receives a congratulatory handshake from board of trustees chairman David Allen June 24 after the unanimous vote to call Patterson as the next president of the seminary. (BP photo by Richard D. McCormack)

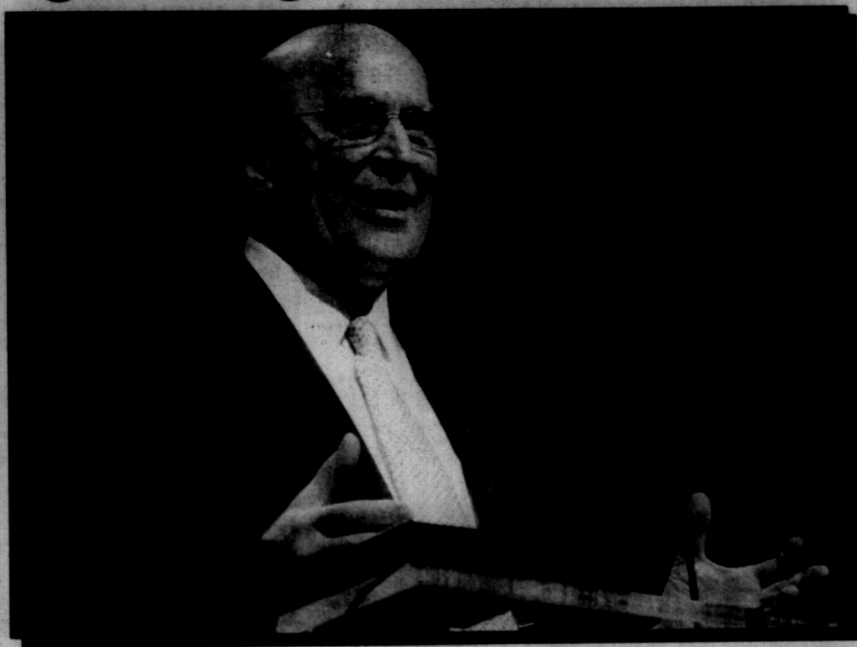
## Lotz speaks to growing tensions between SBC, BWA

PHOENIX (EN) — Immediately before Denton Lotz stood to bring the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) report to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), messengers voted not to reconsider a partial defunding of the world Baptist body.

"The Lord has a wonderful sense of humor, doesn't he?" quipped Lotz, BWA general secretary, as he began his report June 18. Southern Baptist leaders are upset and complain that their concerns have not been adequately heard as BWA considers full membership for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a group that left the SBC several years ago as the so-called conservative resurgence picked up speed.

As a result, messengers to this year's SBC annual meeting in Phoenix voted in a favor of an SBC Executive Committee recommendation to withhold \$125,000 of the SBC's \$425,000 allotment to BWA in the 2003-04 budget. Messengers also put down a belated attempt to reconsider the vote.

Despite the cut in funding and related tensions between the SBC and BWA, Lotz's



Lotz

report was positive and upbeat. "We Baptists in the Baptist World Alliance, 260 conventions, we want to stick together with Southern Baptists, with brothers and sisters in Bangladesh, with Baptists in South Africa and Zimbabwe," he said. "We stick together because we belong to Jesus Christ."

In Turkmenistan, Baptist pastors are being beaten and their churches closed, Lotz reported. "That's why we need to work together. That's why we need Southern Baptists to work with us. We work together for religious freedom."

"We also work together for reciprocity," Lotz continued. "Thirty years ago, there was

only one mosque in Washington. Today there are 39. So now, we need to tell our brothers and sisters that we need a church in Saudi Arabia and Yemen. We want religious freedom for the whole world. That's why we work for reciprocity and work in the United Nations for religious freedom."

The need for a unified Baptist witness also is seen in Russia, Lotz said, noting that in 1990 there was only one Baptist church in Moscow but today there are 52 churches.

"These are the brothers with whom you need to work and whom you need to support," he said. "The Holy Spirit is moving all over the world, and that's why we need the support of Southern Baptists. We need your support because we know your commitment to evangelism."

"Southern Baptists need to stay in the BWA because of your joy in stewardship," Lotz continued. "You have supported us over the years, and we want your continued support. Your Baptist brothers and sisters around the world say, 'We don't know you, but we love you in Jesus Christ.'"

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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NRFC MVFKSLN NRUN O

UZ VFN KOXMSH; UVH

NRSGS OL VFVS NRUN

XUV HSJOQSG FCN FD

NROVS RUVH.

IFW NSV: LSQSV

Clue: O = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs 28:10



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Good News! No Longer Under the Law

Galatians 3:1-25

By Karen Hollowell

As an elementary teacher, I like to think that I'm in charge of my classroom. I often tell my students that I run the classroom, I am the disciplinarian, I make the rules, etc., until they are back under the supervision of their parents. Unfortunately, I too often find myself reminding them of their shortcomings and not praising them when they obey. The Law, as discussed in this week's lesson operates in a similar way. It doesn't praise us, it condemns and reminds us of how imperfect we are.

This week we see Paul continuing the theme of salvation by grace alone in his letter to

the Galatians, specifically Chapter 3. He emphasizes the foolishness of trying to measure up according to obedience of the law—in this case, the Mosaic Law of the Pentateuch.

Thank God, we aren't slaves to the law. Paul describes the law as being in charge to lead us to Christ (v.24). After Jesus, we were no longer in bondage to the law. Indeed, the law puts man under a curse. Verse 10 repeats Deut. 27:26, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Instead of the curse of the law, Jesus became the curse for us, without being guilty of any sin.

Paul often used words associ-

Hollowell

ated with slavery, since it was a prevalent component in the society of his time. He mentions the law keeping us as prisoners. This is still true today. As believers, we make ourselves prisoners to the law when we think that following it with strict adherence will get us a better spot in Heaven. We're so entrenched into comparison living — like "I may not be a Billy Graham, but I've never done anything like him/her, I'm a saint!" We often think that if we are better than at least two out of three people we know, we'll earn salvation, or at least we'll be held in extra special esteem by God. This is prisoner thinking! Our hearts and minds are handcuffed in the Christian life and our service for God's kingdom is diminished. We are slaves when we let something control us other than the Holy Spirit. Today that "something" can be anything from an endless list of possibilities.

Often when we're trying to break a bad habit, either physical or mental, we become a slave to that very thing. We get so caught up in the rules that they hold us in bondage. The rules themselves are not bad, but we're seeing them in the wrong perspective. The rules are there to show us our limits and to outline the consequences—but when the rules are in control, we give up the liberty that we have in Christ. Isaiah 42:7 tells us that Jesus will free the captives from prison. He did that and much more. We are free from the captivity of the law when we accept God's gift of grace through Jesus Christ. The law cannot bring us life—Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

The law, with all its regulations, was man's way of trying to measure up, trying to be good enough. In Hebrews 9, verses 9 and 10, we see the futility of this. The author writes, "This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not

able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings — external regulations applying until the time of the new order."

Paul used Abraham as the great example of justification by faith. Abraham believed in the promises of God and was justified before there even was the law. "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness" (v.6) and to further emphasize this, Paul writes in verse 11 that "the righteous will live by faith." Because of this, we can be called children of Abraham. God's promise to Abraham was revealed in Jesus. He is the Seed to whom Paul referred to in Gal. 3:19. He makes us right with God. "Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4).

Hollowell is member of Crosby Church, Crosby.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Let The Spirit Lead

Galatians 5:16-26

By Kiely Young

The conniving old dogsled-der would bring some of his dogs to a different village each day night and let two of them fight, but before the fight he would take wagers among the villagers as to which dog would win. To the surprise of many, he would always win. The local folk began to catch on to him and finally put a stop to his operation. One old gent asked the dog sledder just how he always knew which dog would win. He said it was simple, the one that was fed the best the week before would always win.

We should ask the same question as we consider be led by the Spirit. Will we be led by our old carnal nature or by the Holy Spirit living in us? Paul chal-

lenges us to be led by the Holy Spirit that we may "Walk in the Spirit and ... not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (v. 16).

#### I. The Reason (5:16-18)

We are in a battle "from the womb to the tomb." A retired seminary professor was asked as he came back for a day of discussion on Christian ethics and morality, "When does a Christian get to the point when he is no longer challenged by Satan with the lusts of the flesh?" He responded with reluctance, "Young man, that is difficult. I am 89. It must be sometime after 89. In reality it is only in the presence of Jesus."

Paul says "the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh" (v.17).

We are in a constant struggle. The only solution that is reason-

Young

able and victorious is to be "led by the Spirit." As we submit ourselves to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, He will lead us. In doing so, Paul reminds the Galatians, "they are not under the law," rather they are "led by the Spirit." The moment we receive Jesus Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit enters our spirit. We are then empowered and led to "walk in the Spirit," that we may overcome the lusts of the flesh.

#### II. The Warning (5:19-21)

Paul has warned of the conflict between the flesh, our old nature; and the Spirit, our spiritual new nature. The results of walking in the flesh are all too evident. The sin nature kicks in strong. Paul gives three groups of types of sins that overcome and control those walking in the flesh. There are sexual sins, superstitious sins, and social sins. Paul states outright "those who practice such things will not inherit the

kingdom of God." Paul is not talking about an act of sin, but a habit of sin. Those who continue in such sin are acting in a false assumption of salvation, because those who are born of the Spirit will not "practice" such sins.

#### III. The Evidence (5:22-24)

When the Spirit leads us, there will be ample evidence. We will be known by our fruit. Just as you can tell a tree by the fruit it bears, you can tell a true Spirit led Christian by the fruit of their life. Paul says there will be "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." It is possible for our old nature to produce some of these, but only the Spirit led believer will produce all of these.

It is only when the Holy Spirit has gained control over our passions and desires through the cleansing power of Christ that we give evidence of the Spirit led fruitful life.

#### IV. The Results (5:25-26)

"Step up and keep in step."

That's another way of saying as Paul says, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (v.25). It seems like just yesterday that our sons and daughter were infants. They each have strong wills and independent spirits. As they learned to walk, they still depended on Mom and Dad to hold their hands and lead them until their little legs were strong enough to hold them. The Holy Spirit has helped us along the way. We first had to learn to crawl, and then scoot. Finally we gained enough confidence to step out on our own. We may have not given due credit, but the Holy Spirit has been guiding us along the way, all the way. Now we must choose to remain in the Spirit, walking in obedience. We must not be conceited or jealous, but always humble and encouraging. As we help others, they help us and the Holy Spirit will guide us all.

Young is the director of the Sunday School Dept. at the MBCB in Jackson.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used & submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

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# PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



## THE AMERICAN FAMILY - UNDER ATTACK

By Jimmy Porter

"The Court has largely signed on to the so-called homosexual agenda. The court has taken sides in the culture war," stated Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia (msnbc.com). Then he added, "State laws against bigamy, same-sex marriage, adult incest, prostitution, masturbation, adultery, fornication, bestiality, and obscenity are likewise sustainable only in light of *Bowers vs. Hardwick*, validation of

laws based on moral choices. Every single one of these laws is called into question by today's decision; the court makes no effort to cabin the scope of its decision to exclude them from its holding" (www.supremecourtus.gov).

These scathing words by Judge Scalia on June 26, 2003 were spoken in his dissent of the court's 6-3 decision to strike down Texas' law against homosexual sodomy, thus reversing the 1986 decision to uphold such laws in a Georgia case, *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

In this writer's opinion, this decision will prove to be one of the worse ever made by the Supreme Court, and it will rank alongside the 1972 *Roe v. Wade* ruling which has resulted in over 42 million abortions. *Newsweek* magazine (July 7, 2003, pg. 40) quotes David Garrow, a legal scholar at Emory University, as saying, "Justice Kennedy's ruling in the *Lawrence v. Texas* case may be one of the two most important opinions of the last 100 years. It's the most libertarian majority opinion ever issued by the Supreme Court. It's arguably bigger than *Roe v. Wade*."

Focus on the Family Vice President of Public Policy, Tom Minnery, said, "With today's decision the court continues pillaging its way through the moral norms of our country. If the people have no right to regulate sexuality, then ultimately the institution of marriage is in peril, and with it the welfare of the coming generations of chil-

dren. While it may feel good to some that a stigma is lifted from a particular group, something else has been lifted — the boundaries that prevent sexual chaos in our culture. In recent years we have seen a sharp rise in unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and heart-break of every kind. By

unlocking one of society's last social seatbelts, the court has guaranteed only one thing — more fatal collisions just down the road (www.frc.org).

Porter

Allow your mind to conjure up the most bizarre and unusual human relationships possible. Then your mind, based on its Christian teachings and its familiarity of past social norms, says to you, "NO, that could never happen, not in America." Don't be so sure. The battle is raging now for gay marriage and gay adoptions to be legal and binding on all states. All the anchors have been lifted and we are drifting toward a sexually pagan society faster than ever. The court's ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* has removed all of the restraints and the die has been cast.

All the major magazines and newspapers have been featuring articles such as *Newsweek* on July 7, "Is Gay Marriage Next?" ABC News reported on July 2 that Wal-Mart has widened its discrimination policy to cover gay and lesbian workers and that the retailer will provide a computer-based training session promoting respect by people regardless of their sexual orientation (abcnews.go). The marital landscape of America has and will continue to get a "facelift" in stark contrast to the clear teachings of God's work.

It may not happen in my lifetime or yours, but it is very possible that marriage will not be seen as a commitment of

"one man and one woman totally committed to each other as companions for life" but a short term contract or some type of illegal arrangement.

be an upside to this issue and to the courts capitulating to the political winds of anti-God culture? Definitely!! Perhaps we will now realize how far we

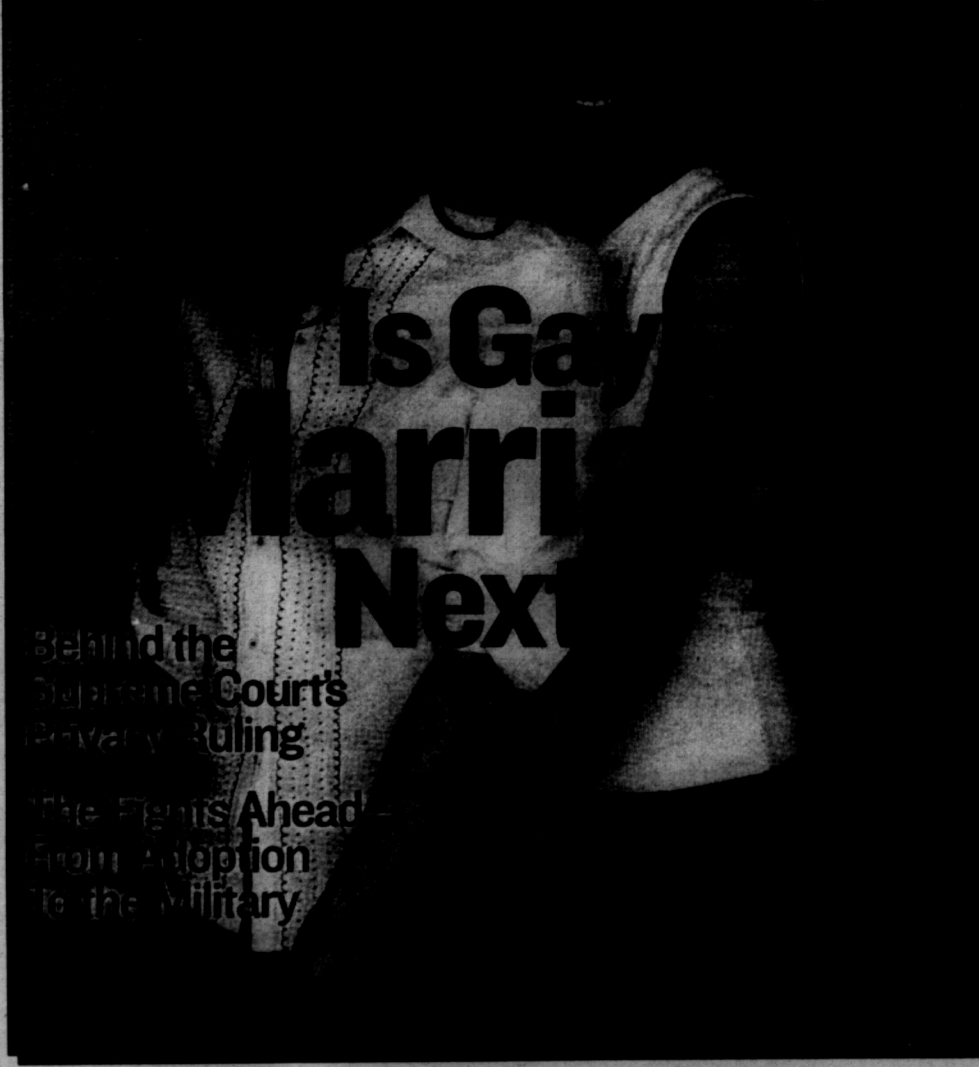
our rhetoric will translate into action, providing support, help, and counseling to those who seek to change their behavioral patterns. It may be that this decision is the one that stirs the moral conscience of America and we all stand up and say in unison, "Enough is enough!"

I would encourage you to write your senators and representatives in Washington and here in Mississippi asking them to use their power and influence to help protect the American family. In fact, there is now a proposed constitutional amendment in the House Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution. We must, as United States citizens, demand that this amendment be passed by the House and Senate and each state given an opportunity to ratify it.

The amendment is clear and concise. It simply says, "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution nor the constitution of any state under state or federal law shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups." Senator Bill Frist, Senate Majority Leader, has duly publicly and emphatically stated his support for this amendment. He expands the feelings of many of us when he told ABC's "This Week," "I very much feel that marriage is a sacrament and that sacrament should extend and can extend to that legal entity of a union between what is traditionally in our Western values

has been defined - as between a man and a woman. So I would support the amendment" (msnbc.com). So would I! Enough is enough!

## Newsweek



Behind the Supreme Court's Privacy Ruling

The Fight Ahead: Right to Adoption to the Military

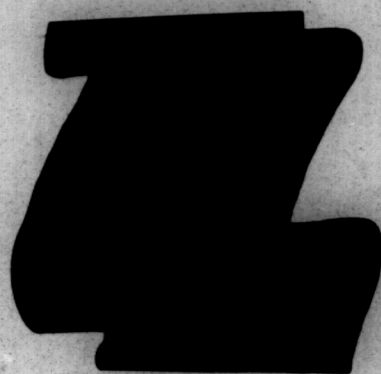
"The concept and even the word marriage may become obsolete. Under the court's concept of "right to privacy" he, she, or they can engage in any form of consensual sexual activity regardless of age or relationship. Bill Murray of the Family Research Council thinks the same when he said, "This decision is about whether our nation will continue to protect and respect the marital bond, or whether it will allow every imaginable consensual relationship between adults (including homosexual polygamists and inter-familial relationships) to be covered under the label of marriage (frc.org)."

Is it possible that there might

have drifted from our Judeo-Christian heritage. Perhaps we will do more to try to reach those who opt for so-called alternative lifestyles. Perhaps

If you are interested in receiving Christian Action Commission updates via the internet and will share this information with friends and your church, please e-mail us at [rwwood@mbcb.org](mailto:rwwood@mbcb.org). Include your name, address, phone number, and church name.





# YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer  
with God in  
your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins  
and freedom from eternal death.  
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose  
from the grave to forgive my  
sins and to restore my  
relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ  
into my life. From this time  
on, I want to live in a loving  
relationship with him.  
(I receive Christ as my  
Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to  
them he gave the right to become  
children of God, even to those who  
believe in his name  
(John 1:12).

If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact  
a local Baptist church for  
spiritual guidance.

## Missionary memorialized in Alaska church

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (BP) — Janette Yvonne Shackles, the Southern Baptist missionary physician killed in a June 9 traffic accident in Ghana, was laid to rest June 19 at University Church in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The fatal accident happened on a two-lane road about an hour north of Ghana's capital city, Accra, while Shackles was traveling back to Nalerigu, Ghana, where she served on the staff of Baptist Medical Centre. She was alone in a double-cab pickup truck and was hit by an oncoming vehicle.

Since March 2002, Shackles, age 47, had helped thousands of patients who had no other access to medical care. While the hospital meets the physical needs of patients, staff members also work to provide access to the Gospel to each patient. The facility has been instrumental in starting dozens of churches in surrounding towns and villages.

Baptist Medical Centre in Nalerigu held a memorial service for Shackles on June 11. Friends and co-workers wore red yarn to represent the grief they felt. Pastor Paul, the BMC chaplain, opened the service with singing, a favorite pastime of the people of Nalerigu. The congregation also spent time praying for Shackles' family and her fellow physicians at the hospital as they coped with the loss.

Though she was only at the medical center a short time, Shackles made an indelible impression on both coworkers and patients, according to a coworker.

"When Dr. Shackles arrived in Nalerigu in March 2002 it was an answer to years of praying for a new doctor to come and work with us," said George Faile, a career missionary physician at Baptist Medical Centre. "Though she was with us only a short time, she quickly became part of the family here."

"She set a good example for all of us in her work ethic and in her Christian witness. In spite of the hard work and I am sure being tired, she always seemed to be cheerful and positive."

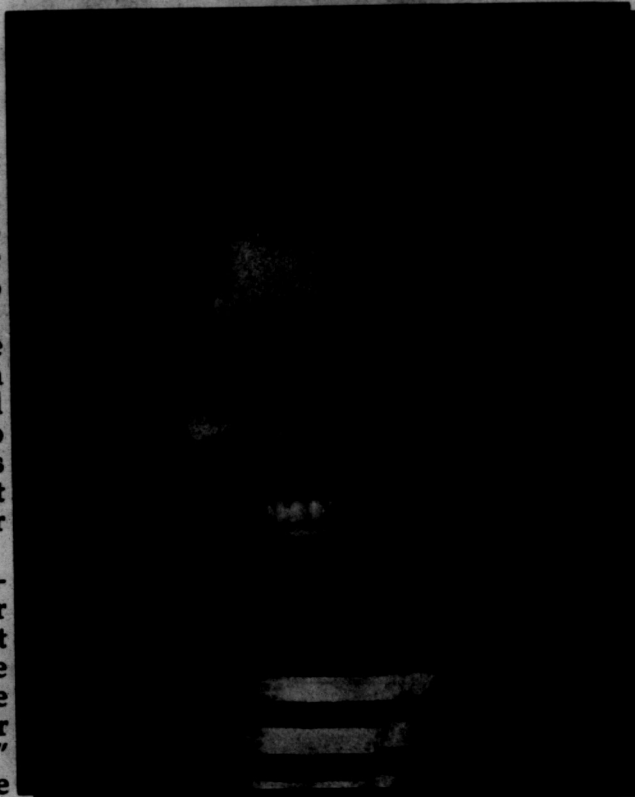
"Dr. Shackles was always friendly and kind to her patients," Faile added. "She was generous and often paid bills for patients who were unable to pay. She took time to witness to patients and to pray for those who especially needed it."

"Dr. Shackles' death will leave a hole that will be hard to fill. We all mourn with her family over the loss of a friend and co-worker. Though it is difficult to understand why she was taken from us after such a short time, we rejoice that she is at rest in peace with her Heavenly Father."

The leader of Ghana's Baptist convention expressed sorrow over Shackles' death. "It was with great shock and dismay that we received the news of the sudden and tragic home calling of our dear sister and co-laborer for the Lord, Janette Yvonne Shackles," said Kojo Amo, general secretary of the Ghana Baptist Convention. "We share in the sorrows of and mourn with the bereaved family, the International Mission Board and the entire Baptist fraternity in the United States of America."

"This indeed is a great loss and a big vacuum that will be difficult to fill, yet we take consolation in the fact that our dear sister died in active service for her master Jesus Christ. Our sister has gone home to be with the Lord. We shall see her face to face some day."

Shackles had studied and was continuing to learn the African language



Shackles

Mamprulli, native to the Mamprusi people group she was working with. She was using it in her contact with hospital patients and other people living in the village.

The International Mission Board appointed Shackles in November 2001 and she had been serving as a physician at the Baptist Medical Centre in Nalerigu since March 2002. Prior to her appointment, she worked as a staff physician and medical director of Maniilaq Health Center in Kotzebue, Alaska.

## Caswells announce plans to return to Yemen

PHOENIX (BP) — The worker who survived the December 30, 2002, massacre at the hospital in Jibla, Yemen, thanked Southern Baptists for their prayers June 17, as his wife told messengers of their intent to love their "enemies"

by returning to the country. International Mission Board (IMB) representative Don Caswell, shot twice during the Dec. 30 shooting that claimed three of his co-workers, told messengers during the Executive Committee report to the Southern Baptist Convention that his family wants "to be obedient to the call that God gave us" by going "to another land and [sharing] His love and His message of salvation with the lost of the world."

Caswell's wife Teri recounted how they have sought God's will for their future ministry following the shooting. Her answer came in Luke 6, in which Jesus commands His followers to "love your enemies." She said that as she read the passage she felt God telling her, "I've called

you to go and to love people who aren't always easy to love."

Teri Caswell said, "... with the [IMB] board's approval, we intend to return to Yemen Aug. 1 of this year."

A Muslim extremist burst into the Yemen Hospital on December 20, 2002, falsely claiming to have a sick baby under his robes. Once inside the hospital, he gunned down physician Martha Myers, supply specialist Kathleen Gariety, and hospital administrator Bill Koehn. Pharmacist Don Caswell, critically wounded in the abdomen, was the only one of the four to survive.

The Caswells, joined by their sons Ben and Caleb, received a standing ovation when introduced by Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman at the Phoenix meeting.

"I thank God for the Caswells," Chapman said.

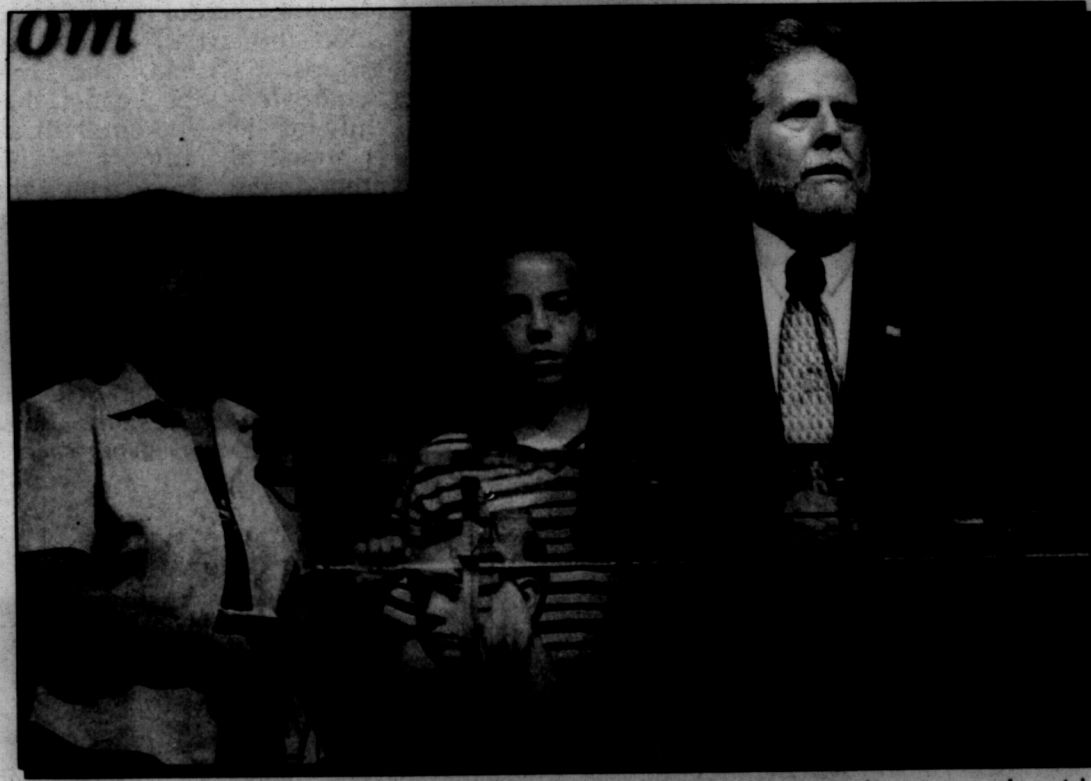
Both Caswells stressed the importance of praying for the people of Yemen as well as those in other parts of the world who have not heard the Gospel. Referring to a Yemeni man pictured in a video which was shown before they spoke, Don Caswell asked Southern Baptists to "continue to pray for the lost, like this man, that are all over the world" and who "are dying each day and going to hell because they not heard" the Gospel.

Caswell said he is often asked: Why do you go overseas? He said that if alive, his three coworkers, Kathleen Gariety, Martha Myers, and William Koehn would respond by saying they go because "of all the lost [people] in the world."

The Caswells also thanked Southern Baptists for their prayers and their giving through the Cooperative Program. Teri Caswell said, "It is only by His grace and through your many prayers that we've been able to get through this situation. And He has truly carried us through."

The video shown during the Executive Committee report told the story of the day the Islamic gunman attacked the hospital in Yemen and how Teri Caswell wondered if her husband would live. Even that day, she said, she and several believers gathered to pray for the gunman — that "even as Saul of Tarsus" was saved, the gunman "would have that same experience" and be saved.

"All I know is that my God told me that He loves everybody and that He died for the whole world," she said in the video. "He told me that I'm supposed to love them just as He loved me. ... None of us are worthy of salvation. ... There, but by the grace of God, go I."



ATTACK'S AFTERMATH — Pharmacist Don Caswell (at podium) stands with his wife Teri and sons Ben and Caleb as he recounts his experiences Dec. 30, 2002, during a deadly attack on the Baptist hospital in Jibla, Yemen. The Caswells spoke as part of the annual report of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, presented during the opening session of the SBC annual meeting, June 17 in the Phoenix Civic Center. The Caswells announced they are planning to return to work in Yemen in August. (Photo by Van Payne)